

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03477 232152Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DLOS-03 DODE-00 OES-03 COA-01 CG-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 COME-00 INT-05 /052 W
----- 096741

R 232135Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4832

INFO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3477

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO, CA

SUBJ: ARMED FORCES SLOW OPERATIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL ON OCTOBER 23 PUBLISHED CP ARTICLE
ENTITLED: "ARMED FORCES SLOW OPERATIONS AS OTTAWA
STUDIES COST-CUTTING."

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS ITEM, "ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN
RUNG DOWN TO DEAD-SLOW AHEAD FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS
WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES ON HOW AND WHERE TO CUT
COSTS...ALL BUT THE MOST ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN
CANCELLED...SITUATION UNTIL AT LEAST NEXT APRIL WILL SEE
MEN SITTING ON THEIR BACKSIDES LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW
AT EQUIPMENT THEY CANNOT USE..WONDERING WHETHER
MODERNIZATION WILL EVER GET OFF THE GROUND."

3. BY APRIL, WHEN GOC BRINGS DOWN ITS 1975-76 BUDGET,
GOC WILL HAVE DECIDED "HOW MUCH MONEY IT IS WILLING TO
SPEND IN MAINTAINING...AN 'ELITE' FORCE...THE SQUEEZE
IS THE RESULT OF A \$98 MILLION COST-CUTTING PROGRAM...
THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED THIS YEAR'S DEFENCE EXPENDITURES
TO RISE TO ABOUT \$2.5 BILLION FROM ABOUT \$2.36 BILLION,
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03477 232152Z

BUT SOME OF THAT INCREASE HAD TO COVER A \$500-A-YEAR

INFLATION ALLOWANCE THAT...MILITARY RECEIVED IN THE SPRING...WITH AN IMPENDING ELECTION, (THE GOVT) TOOK NO CONCRETE ACTION...THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF THE FORCES IS IN EXCESS OF 83,000. TODAY THEY ARE DOWN TO...78,000...MR. RICHARDSON (MINDEF) HAS INDICATED THAT HE SEES THE JOB OF CABINET AS PRUNING A LITTLE FROM THE MILITARY'S BASIC TASKS OF INTERNAL SECURITY, DEFENCE OF NORTH AMERICA, NATO AND PEACEKEEPING."

4. IN OCTOBER 23 EDITORIAL OTTAWA CITIZEN ALSO CITES PROBLEM AND SUGGESTS "THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO CHANGE THE ASSIGNMENT...OUR OWN NEEDS MUST COME FIRST. WITH CANADA EXTENDING ITS ARTIC WATERS SURVEILLANCE AND ITS FISHING LIMITS, MEN MUST BE TRAINED AND EQUIPMENT BOUGHT TO DO THE JOB. TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, WE SHOULD GET OTHER COUNTRIES TO SHARE OUR PEACEKEEPING COMMITMENTS, SO THAT WE CAN REDUCE OUR FORCES THERE. THE SAME HOLDS FOR NATO. FINALLY, OUR NORAD COMMITMENT, DESIGNED FOR DEFENCE AGAINST AIR ATTACK, IS OUTDATED, AND SHOULD BE REVIEWED." PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BUDGET, MILITARY EXPENDITURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA03477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740303-0503
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741023/aaaaatir.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <29 APR 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMED FORCES SLOW OPERATIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS
TAGS: MARR, CA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005